



FOR RELEASE
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Archived Information

AT LEAST \$219.7 MILLION INCREASE IN EDUCATION FUNDS TO ILLINOIS AT RISK AS BIPARTISAN BUDGET AGREEMENT COLLAPSES AND CONGRESS DECIDES TO GO HOME

The decision by the Congress to end work on the federal budget for FY2001 and go home until after the election leaves a significant increase in education funding nationally in jeopardy, including an increase of at least \$219.7 million for Illinois, according to an analysis conducted by the Department of Education.

"It is a shame that at the very last moment the congressional leadership put at risk this bipartisan budget agreement," said U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley. "To pass it would have been the right thing to do for children in Illinois."

Congressional negotiators reached agreement on the budget early Monday morning, including substantial new investments in education such as funding to reduce class size, provide emergency repairs for run down schools, increase after-school opportunities, improve teacher quality, help turn around low-performing schools, help children with disabilities, and increase access to and funding for college and help families pay for college. At the very last minute, the agreement, negotiated on a bipartisan basis, was scuttled by the majority congressional leadership. As a result, Illinois funding *increases* in education are jeopardized in a number of areas, including:

Reducing Class Size (Third installment in the bipartisan commitment to help school districts hire and train 100,000 new teachers over seven years to reduce class sizes in early grades to 18 students per class.): \$18,896,103

Upgrade Teacher Skills and Quality [Eisenhower Professional Development State Grants] (Helps teachers improve their skills in core academic subjects and reduce the number of uncertified and out-of-field teachers.): \$10,433,732

Improve Reading and Math (Title I Grants to local education agencies which help disadvantaged students learn the basics and achieve to high standards.): \$7,513,371

School Renovation Grants (Provides support for emergency repairs, such as repair of roofs, plumbing and electrical systems, meeting fire and safety codes; a portion of the funds will also go to technology and special education activities.): \$50,307,507

21st Century After-School Programs* (Offers families a safe place for their children to learn during after-school and summertime hours.): \$12,358,886

Turn Around Low-Performing Schools (Enhance accountability by accelerating state and local efforts to improve the lowest performing Title I schools, ranging from intensive teacher training to required implementation of proven reforms to school takeovers.): \$4,332,334

Comprehensive School Reform (Helps schools develop or adapt and implement, comprehensive school reform models that are based on reliable research and effective practices.): \$1,584,151

Special Education Grants to States (Assists states in providing a free appropriate public education to more than 6.3 million children with disabilities nationally.): \$69,554,843

Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (Provides grant assistance to low-income undergraduate students.): \$3,316,429

Federal Work-Study (Helps undergraduate and graduate students pay for college through part-time work assistance.): \$3,668,572

Pell Grants for College (Provides grant assistance to low-income undergraduate students.): \$50,100,000

In addition, under the Gear Up program, 9 grants are operating in Illinois to create links between middle schools and postsecondary institutions and prepare at-risk youth for college. Bipartisan negotiators reached an agreement to increase funding by \$125 million to \$325 million for Gear Up. These resources are needed to allow the \$9,163,532 in grants now operating in Illinois to continue and to allow for 12 new State awards and 140 new Partnership awards around the nation.

To strengthen future teachers' ability to use technology in their classrooms, the Preparing Tomorrows Teachers to Use Technology program has committed \$1,575,529 in grants operating

in Illinois. The agreement would have increased funding for the program nationally from \$75 million to \$125 million to continue the current grants and to fund 90 additional grants around the nation to serve 89,000 more teachers.

Congress is preparing to leave and planning to return to work in a special session beginning Nov. 14. At that time, Congress will take up the education budget and seek to reach a final agreement.

“I hope that when Congress returns to work after the election,” said Riley, “it will move forward with this budget and go one step further to pass school modernization legislation. That bipartisan bill now has the support of 231 members of Congress, a clear majority of the House, and it would help Illinois pay for the construction and modernization of needed classrooms.”

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Note to editors: These numbers are estimates of what Illinois would get in the bipartisan agreement for FY2001 compared to what they would get under the continuing resolution.

* The 21st Century After-School Program functions as a competition. Projections for the increase that is at risk are based on the assumption that each state would receive the same proportion of the new funds as were received under previous competitions.